

# The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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## RARE II Oregon Roadless Area Review and Evaluation



Residents of the area have until Oct. 1 to make comments to the U.S. Forest Service concerning six roadless areas in the Umatilla National Forest.

## Roadless areas in county subject to 'wilderness'

Within the next few months, the U.S. Forest Service will conclude one of the largest federal land use planning efforts ever undertaken and in the end will be a land use determination for more than 48,000 acres of forest lands in the Heppner Unit of the Umatilla National Forest.

Called RARE II—an acronym for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, Part 2—the process will evaluate undeveloped areas totaling over one-third of the nation's 187-million acre National Forest System for their wilderness potential.

The review is presently in its "public involvement" stage, with the Forest Service accepting comments on a variety of alternatives contained in its Draft Environmental Statement until October 1.

Included in the RARE II process are six areas in the Heppner Unit of the Umatilla National Forest, referred to as Texas Butte, Kelly Prairie, Skookum, Potamus, Baloney Basin and Hell's Half Acre. A total of 27 roadless areas within the Umatilla National Forests are under review totaling 28 per cent of the total forest acres.

The existing Weneha-Tu-cannon wilderness area in the Umatilla National Forest accounts for about 12 per cent of the total forest lands, which means that if all roadless areas under review were designated wilderness, 40 per cent of the Umatilla National Forest would be taken from production.

Opinions are sharply divided on RARE II as competition for a variety of uses abounds, including recreation,

range, timber, wildlife and fish management, water shed and supply and wilderness uses.

Billed as a comprehensive planning effort, RARE II is intended to identify and recommend one of three land use classifications for each of the areas:

(A) Areas which would be recommended to Congress as wilderness additions;

(B) Areas which should be managed for uses other than wilderness, and promptly released for such purposes as developed recreation, timber production and wildlife management; and;

(C) Areas which require further data before management decisions are made.

Social, economic and environmental consequences resulting from any of the above classifications are significant

for surrounding communities and the stakes are relatively high.

Landform and ecosystem representation, wildlife characteristics and accessibility to the nation's population were four of the major criteria used by the Forest Service to evaluate the roadless areas. Combined with criteria relating wilderness designation effects on timber, energy, developed recreation use and wildlife programs, a set of 10 alternatives were proposed by the agency for public comment.

These alternatives are presented in the Draft Environmental Statement released this past June and provide for a full range of roadless area uses.

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## Dr. Gifford to return; clinic opens September 5

Dr. Joseph Gifford announced this week that he will be returning to Heppner to establish a family practice at the Medical Clinic on Thompson Street.

Gifford, who left Heppner about seven months ago, will arrive Sunday, Sept. 3 and will open the clinic on Tuesday, Sept. 5. He will be on call, through the hospital, Sept. 3-4.

Gifford's arrival this weekend means the community will not be without a practicing physician during a two-week vacation planned by Dr. Wallace Wolff during the first part of September.

Kent Goodyear, chairman of the Doctor Search Committee, said Gifford has purchased all of the equipment in the clinic and has hired some staff.

Dr. Gifford has rented a house in Heppner and will be returning to New Mexico in late September to move his family here.

Goodyear said the Doctor Search Committee will be meeting with Gifford after his arrival to discuss locating a second physician for the

community. Goodyear noted there have been no further developments regarding finding a doctor for the Boardman area.

## City police nab suspect

Heppner city police early Sunday morning arrested a 19-year-old man on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated, and resisting arrest.

Rex Henry of Heppner pleaded not guilty to the charges in a hearing at Morrow County Justice Court on Tuesday.

Police said Henry was

driving a pickup truck owned by Dick Rice of Heppner at the time of the 4:30 a.m. arrest. While officers were taking Henry into custody on the intoxication charge, they learned that the Rice vehicle was reported stolen from a parking space near the Wagon Wheel restaurant.

Henry was released from custody on his own recogni-

zance following his arraignment Tuesday in Justice Court.

### Weather

	Hi	Low	Pre
Wed., Aug. 23	74	47	
Thurs., Aug. 24	79	55	.03
Fri., Aug. 25	70	52	.12
Sat., Aug. 27	72	46	
Sun., Aug. 27	82	50	
Tues., Aug. 29	85	53	

## Health care district on ballot in Nov. election

Formation of a health care district for Morrow County will be put before voters on the November general election ballot even though the County Court could form the district on the basis of a petition drive now underway.

County Judge D.O. Nelson told the Gazette-Times that it has been the court's position from the start to put formation of a county-wide health care district before the people for a vote.

The petitions being circulated throughout the county ask the court to form a county-wide health care district with an elected board of directors. The court could, if it chose to do so, form the district without going to the people with a ballot if no remonstrance were received.

"We expect some people to be opposed to the formation of a health district, but even if we didn't receive any formal opposition, the court has decided to put the measure before the people for a vote," said Nelson.

"It's much too important an issue for the court to decide itself, based on the petition," said Nelson. Formation of the district would allow a

separate tax base (which also must be voted on by county residents) for operations of all health care services and facilities in the county.

Presently, Pioneer Memorial Hospital is funded through the county budget with clinics in Heppner and Boardman also owned by the county.

Sponsors of the petition believe that with the district a broader scope of health services may be provided and managed, eliminating duplication of services. In addition, it is believed that a health care district could better meet the unique problems of medical care in Morrow County; specifically the large geographical area, relatively small populations centers and the long distances of travel.

Those health services that might be included in the district would include general hospital facilities, clinics, emergency facilities and a coordinated ambulance service with Emergency Medical Technicians, home health care, mental health, and medical-social services.

A five-person board of directors would be elected by the people, that would include representation from throughout the county.

## Good weather, good entries grace 1978 Rodeo parade

The Boardman Harvest Festival float, featuring a horn of plenty and the festival's court, took grand sweepstakes honors during last Saturday's 1978 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Parade.

The American Legion and its auxiliary Post 87 won first place among adult organizations appearing in the parade, followed by the Heppner Soroptimists, the Morrow County Search and Rescue Posse, and the Boardman Lions Club.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital's float, featuring an Indian medicine man administering to the needs of an ailing pioneer, took top honors in the business float category, followed by the U.S. Forest Service, Heppner District's float carrying a larger-than-life Smokey the Bear. The Morrow County Grain Grower's entry placed third.

The Rainbow Riders from Milton-Freewater won the best riding club category, followed by the Umatilla Sageriders.

The Union County Fair maids float won the best out-of-county entry, followed by the Main Street Cowboys and the Happy Canyon Directors.

Verina and Ryan Schiller took first place in the best mounted family group, with Bobette and Mark Angell finishing second.

Best mounted cowboy and cowgirl honors went to Shawn Eng of Lexington and Brenda Bozarth of Boardman, with Melvin Bozarth of Hermiston winning the best comic category. Ethel Lehman of Echo was recognized for being the oldest cowgirl in the parade. She is 86.

The All-Morrow County High School Band won the marching band division, with the Pendleton Roundup Court taking top honors in the Queen and Court division.

Antique auto entries were very much in evidence at this year's parade, with the Blue Mountain Model A club of Pendleton taking first place, followed by Dutch Lankford,

Robert and Diane Stickney and Pete Schwarzin.

Moving even farther back in history to the wagon and buggy entries, the ARZ Farms entry from the Hermiston area took top honors, followed by Patsy Bozarth, also of Hermiston.

The Heppner cheerleaders won the children's float category, with C.B.'s Studio of

Baton winning the marching unit division. Best costume awards went to Susie Olsen and Bo McEwen, first; Cammie Papineau, second and Homer Bozarth, third.

Taking top honors in the bicycle division was Mike Rietmann of Ione, followed by

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## Ione High School pre-40 reunion set

The Ione High School reunion for those who attended school there prior to 1940, will be held Sunday, Sept. 3 at the American Legion Hall in Ione. The committee of Dot Halvorsen or Eva Hamlett would like to hear from local people planning to attend the reunion as soon as possible. About 40 persons living away from the area have indicated they

would be in attendance.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. with lunch scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Local residents are asked to bring a hot dish or salads and those attending from away are asked to bring relish dishes or desserts.

Mrs. Hamlett said anyone having attended Ione High School prior to 1940 is invited to attend.



Grand sweepstakes winner in the Morrow County Fair & Rodeo Parade last Saturday was the Boardman Harvest Festival float. Boardman will be hosting its own celebration September 9 and 10. The Harvest Festival court of Joan Partlow, Vickie Daniels, Judy Danies and Andrea Hadley add the finishing touch to the "Horn of Plenty".